

S.F. School Superintendent Meets With The OMI Community

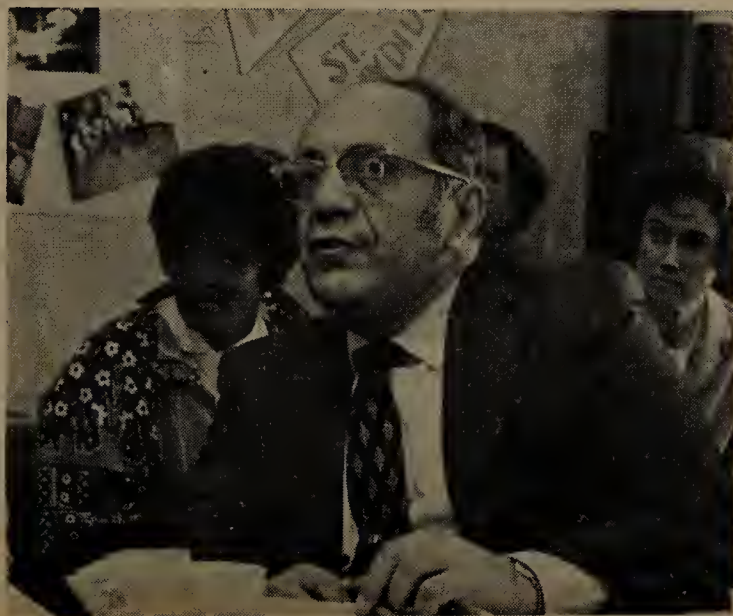
For the first time since the inception of the OMI Community Education Planning Project (OMI-CEPP) in 1967, a San Francisco Unified School District Superintendent visited the OMI community.

In an informal and friendly atmosphere, forty residents representing all seven OMI public and parochial elementary schools met with Dr. Thomas Shaheen on January 29 at the OMI-CEPP office to discuss the future of the federally funded OMI-CEPP project which will terminate June 30 unless the S.F.U.S.D. agrees to finance it.

Carlos Ruling, Director of the OMI-CEPP project, outlined minimum requirements to keep the program going in the five public elementary schools. They included a curriculum leader at each school who has particular skill in reading. This specialist would serve as a floating teacher, conduct teacher workshops, and support the tutorial program. Two para-professionals would be maintained to work with the curriculum leaders and to assist with the library services. The library program would continue with two librarians serving all five schools. The after-school tutorial program would continue with five para-professionals and the OMI-CEPP office would remain open with a Project Director and a Community Liaison Assistant.

Mr. Ruling said this minimum program, which would cost approximately \$154,000 a year to implement, was based upon ideas obtained at community meetings and upon recommendations made by the OMI Education Committee and the five public school principals.

In response, Dr. Shaheen reviewed the financial crisis that the S.F.U.S.D. now faces. He said, however, that he would not make a judgment regarding OMI-CEPP funding until he learns more about the program. He indicated he



Dr. Thomas Shaheen talks to concerned OMI residents at the OMI-CEPP office. (Harris House of Photography)

would visit the OMI schools prior to the final budget decision which must be made by March 15.

Dr. Shaheen then voiced a concern about the OMI-CEPP project: "More personnel may not be the answer ... the process of teaching is far more important." He showed great interest in some of the programs introduced by the OMI-CEPP, such as Language Experiences in Reading, the Science Curriculum Improvement Study, the Inventory of Developmental Tasks, and the

Self-Enhancing Education program.

Dr. Shaheen was also impressed by the OMI-CEPP's relationship with parochial schools and said he would investigate the possibility of finding outside funding to continue that element of the program.

Sheridan Sch. Protests

Sheridan Elementary School, with a predominantly black student body, has lost its first black male administrator. Vice Principal Kelly Husbands has been promoted to Sir Francis Drake School as principal.

Retirements, illnesses, promotions and the return of tenured administrators from sabbaticals have made 55 administrative transfers necessary, according to school department officials.

Mrs. Idanelle Morgan, member of Sheridan School's PTA, reports that Sheridan has had six different administrators (principals or vice principals) in the last six years. "We not only protest this situation but we also object to losing Mr. Kelly," said Mrs. Morgan. "We are on record with the Board of Education requesting that Mr. Kelly be our next principal," she continued.

Mr. Jordan Boone, President of the Sheridan PTA, wrote a letter to Dr. Thomas Shaheen, Superintendent of Schools for the San Francisco Unified School District. The letter stated: "It is the parents' desire that Mr. Hus-

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Interesting Graduates At Bal Adult Sch.

The third set of persons to graduate from Balboa Adult School since its reopening on February 19, 1968 has several firsts. Mr. and Mrs. Ceasar B. Henry of 176 Broad Street is the first "couple," and Margie Deminne of 135 Shawnee Avenue is the first foreign-born. She is also the first to have a daughter graduating from Balboa High School during the same year.

How did the Henrys happen to get their high school diploma from Balboa Adult School? The combination of reading an article in the OMI News, Mrs. Henry's desire to get her diploma after 20 years, her husband's support and their desire to encourage their son to return to finish school by their own actions. To quote Mrs. Henry: "I didn't think I could learn as easily since I'd been out of school so long, but I find it's easier. Once you go, you want to continue for self-confidence and self-satisfaction." Mr. Henry puts it this way: "You have to really make up your mind to follow all the way through. Once you miss one night, it is hard to catch up. You must be dedicated to it. Nothing comes easy; you have to sacrifice. In our case it was T.V. and a leisurely night off."

Mrs. Deminne feels a lot of self discipline is needed. The one night she missed last term was due to attending a PTA meeting for her son. She recalls when she attended a

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Funds Raised

The OMI treasury is \$162.00 richer this month due to the efforts of 19 OMI residents who volunteered their services on inventory night at the Emporium, January 16.

Each year, individuals take inventory at the department store in the name of a specific organization. The OMI Association has expressed its gratitude to those who participated in its behalf.

Session On CEPP Future

One hundred sixty-five persons, including parents, teachers, administrators and CEPP Staff, nearly filled the Commodore Sloat School Auditorium, January 11 to evaluate the past, consider the present, and crystal-ball the future of the seven schools in the OMI community.

The two-hour session gave all parties involved a chance to compare test results of reading achievement for the five public schools over a four-year period, to talk with one another in small groups about the valuable features of the program, and to have a voice in what should be the priorities of any future planning.

The 36-page report on the Project, given each person attending, included pertinent data regarding test scores which indicates a trend of improved skills in vocabulary development and comprehension. More significantly, these facts are highlighted:

— In grade 1, test results show two schools above the District median; one at the median; two below compared with 1967 figures which placed one above, one at, and three below the District median;

— in grade 2, three of the schools scored higher than the District average in May 1970 compared with three years ago that placed one above, one at, and three below the District Median;

— Kindergarten pre-testing programs show the children better prepared for their first year of school between 1969 and 1970;

— Racial composition of the five schools indicates a certain stabilization taking place,

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Temple Methodist Scene Of OMI Day Care Center

By Frances Marvin

A tight little convoy of a dozen three-year-olds wound up the stairs, each grasping a string fastened to a central line, escorted by teachers fore and aft, bound for the park. In the sunny play yard below, twenty-five more preschoolers raced about on tricycles, swarmed over various equipment, rolled on mats or ran to greet the visitor: "What's your name?" and "Will you eat lunch with us?" Eagerness marked the activities indoors as well, where teachers supervised art projects or free play with toys and told stories to other groups of the 110 children cared for daily at Temple Methodist Church.

This is the Day Care Center which was opened in OMI last July through the efforts of neighborhood residents, under State financing and regulation, administered by the San Francisco Unified School District.

Enrollment of the center, which is full at present, is just over half from the OMI area and half from other parts of the city. Priorities for places in the center are set by a new State law that favors sole parents and those on welfare who are undergoing job training. Miss Claire Hause, the center's director states, however, that if two children were equally eligible for a vacant place she would give prefer-

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OMI NEWS

Published Monthly by the OMI Community Association

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"TO THE PEOPLE"

By Lonnie Lawson
President, OMI Association

Coordination of activities and growth are important factors for the OMI Community.

With our present facilities we serve as a "receiving center" for community related material and-or projects. In short, we represent the people.

OMI serves the community by bringing black and white residents together with the purpose of understanding the root cause of any problem that might lead to some future conflict. OMI functions as a source of contact with those persons who are capable of participating in the process of change and growth.

Coordination and growth is realizable when the resources (personal, political, and financial) of the majority are brought to the aid of all — majority as well as the minority.

16 Unit Public Housing Project at Randolph and Head — OMI lost its battle with the San Francisco Housing Authority when our request to reconsider the type housing to be constructed was denied. The OMI Board went on record to oppose the conventional type housing because of the stigma that is attached to housing projects. However, the Board did recommend the erecting of owner occupied type units. This idea was put forth because each member agreed that any person buying into the unit would have more concern about upkeep.

Ocean View Gym — Youth organizations, churches and the OMI organization joined forces in urging the rebuilding of the Ocean View Gym because this was the only facility of its type in the community and it was felt that the youth deserved a place of their own to hold activities and to channel their energies into worthwhile projects.

We had the opportunity to present our arguments expressing our desires for refurbishing the gym, which was gutted by fire in June 1970, before the Board of Supervisors. The Board of Supervisors requested the influence of the Mayor in urging the Department of Park and Recreation to reorder its priorities so action could be taken to rebuild the gym as soon as possible. During the Department of Park and Recreation board meeting in January, it was approved to submit a request to the Controller for an appropriation in the amount of \$226,000 for rebuilding the gym.

As President of OMI, I am asking each of you to help me in doing a job that would be a credit to the community.

I need your assistance in selling the idea of a "Youth-Adult Patrol" for the Ocean View Gym. This is the idea I have with the expressed purpose of patrolling the facilities, once completed, to insure safety for everyone desiring to use the gym and not let just a few determine what will be done.

Funding is a problem and therefore, our Ways and Means Committee needs help (suggestions and volunteers).

Please feel free to call me if you think I can be of service in any community related project.

OPINION

Any opinion contained in the articles under this heading is that of the individual writer and does not necessarily reflect the opinion of the OMI Community Association.

Reasons For Caring About CEPP

By Lillian Thompson
former Education Committee
Chairman

I have thought a great deal about CEPP and what it has done for our children, our schools, our community and our lives. I wonder how many others have thought of what would happen to our community, or what would happen to our children if suddenly there was no one who really cared if our children learned to read or learned how to count their money. What will happen when a teacher no longer has a place to go where he or she can discuss the many problems which come up during a week.

Sometimes some of the things we say we want for our

children, and what we really want, but don't say, create a conflict within us, sapping all our energies and causing us to give up trying to continue the struggle for a better education, a better way for all concerned. For those who genuinely believe that if our children learn how to read and comprehend well and have an understanding of math, they will know how to function successfully in this society, then they should know that that is what the CEPP is all about. But for those who believe that having a nice house, a new car, stylish clothes, living in a quiet neighborhood surrounded by new schools, will bring them success and acceptability in society, then

you have truly been misguided. There is no guarantee that this will be true unless we begin to give of ourselves, of our time, and energies and give of our money — but giving, believing that God wants us to have all of these things; and more than that — that we must expect a miracle to bring them about. When we expect a miracle, then we will be ready to receive it and appreciate it and thank God for it.

Let's begin to give of our money, our time and energies to continue some kind of educational project for our children in this community and then let's EXPECT A MIRACLE to make it so.

OMI Loses Out on FACE Project

By Vernon Wallace

It was recently revealed to a member of the Beautification Committee that one area of OMI was denied participation in the excellent federal program — Federally Assisted Code Enforcement. This has come as bad news to our community, as the FACE program is one of the best federal projects for a neighborhood such as ours that is working toward rehabilitation. While some parts of OMI are in excellent shape, and don't need FACE, here are others where the homes do need rehabilitation.

FACE could have value to us for three reasons. First, the government will loan a homeowner the money for

home improvements with interest rates of only three per cent. Second, within certain restrictions, the federal government will help the owner refinance the purchase price of the home, with very favorable terms to the homeowner. Third, a community that is recognized as a FACE program area invariably becomes rehabilitated, and the homes then increase markedly in value.

The officials cited the fact that there was not enough community interest to warrant the risk of making this a FACE area. With this loss as a bitter reminder, it is hoped that concerned groups will start to put pressure where it belongs, so that we will not be put down again. Generally,

small sections of a dozen or so blocks are designated as FACE areas, so there are many areas in OMI that could go for FACE.

At the present time, the only section of the OMI that is working on this type of project is that in the northeast corner — bounded by Ocean, Mt. Vernon, Harold and San Jose streets. Mrs. Willis Henderson is the person who is carrying the ball for this area.

We must have interested persons who are willing to see what can be done to make FACE programs out of our areas. The Beautification Committee is dedicated to much more work in this type of project. Please call Vernon Wallace at 587-7203 for more information.

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OMI Gets Short Stick

By Bob McMains
Mayor Alioto asks that \$22.5 million be shifted from the West Portal Subway to the Embarcadero Station.

If you want better transportation in OMI, then do something before the fat cats from downtown hand you an empty bag.

If 1962 the people voted to tax themselves to provide BARTD, including a subway through the West Portal business district and St. Francis Circle.

We, the working taxpaying people of OMI, should get some decent service someday. With BARTD it will be faster to go to Walnut Creek than to Ocean View from downtown. Surface cars on West Portal Ave. will be slower than subway. Also there were 77 accidents in two and one-half years on the four blocks of West Portal Ave.

The students at SF State and SF Community College deserve to be treated as humans, not sardines. If BARTD builds the promised subway to St. Francis Circle, the Muni could easily dig under Eucalyptus, Winston and Holloway to provide a submerged station for SF State.

The Muni should be so comfortable, quick and convenient that few of us will choose to pollute the air with that costly smog machine, the auto.

Mayor Alioto proposes to spend the \$22.5 million according to this list: (Please note where the money runs out) 1. West Portal Surface Station, \$2 million. 2. Embarcadero Station, \$20 million. 3. Extend Muni platforms downtown, \$1

million. 4. Raise Muni tracks downtown, no amount. 5. Extend M-Line to Balboa Park Station, \$400,000 (less than 1/2 million). 6. Subway signal system, \$1.6 million. 7. Rerail between East Portal of Twin Peaks Tunnel and St. Francis Circle, \$1.3 million. 8. Upgrade Forest Hills Station, \$1.9 million. 9. New railcar storage and service, extend K-Line to Balboa Park Station, \$4.1 million. 10. Muni fare collection system, \$1.8 million. 11. New electrical system, \$1 million. 12. VEHICULAR underpass at St. Francis Circle, \$3.5 million.

How do we get so lucky? Did you notice that the only item under \$1 million was for OMI? The City also has a \$44 million Muni Improvement proposal which includes the mayor's list except Nos. 5 and 12. Those are the bones thrown to us; say thank you to downtown or get ready to tell off the S.F. Board of Supervisors.

Extending the M-Line and K-Line to the Balboa Park Station (at Geneva) is greatly needed by OMI residents so that one can use the M or K-Line to reach BARTD, Community College or S.F. State College. There could be better early morning service to the M-Line since the cars would come directly from the car-barn.

Did you know that the M-Line and K-Line are the only ones that will not be rerailed?

Did You know that S.F. Community College may lose its shelter at Phelan Loop?

Why are we so lucky? What have you done? If you want improved transit, do something — now — call OMI, 584-8188 and leave your name. Attend OMI meetings on Thursday. Or the Transportation Committee meeting March 16 at 7:30 p.m., 205 Granada.

Ecumenical Parish— Efforts to Link Churches and OMI

Late in 1969, clergy and laymen from several of the churches in the OMI met to form the OMI Ecumenical Parish. The group — which meets at 6:30 p.m. on the first Tuesday of every month at one of the various member churches — claims representatives from Baptist, Methodist, Presbyterian, Lutheran, Catholic, Community and

Episcopalian congregations (among others).

The formation of the Ecumenical Parish is a result of the growing realization that, along with the community at large, the churches have a commitment to and a stake in the success of the OMI. The purpose of the group is to provide a link between the churches and the OMI organ-

ization, publicizing the community's needs and activities to the various congregations, and making known to the OMI organization the available facilities, equipment, and services from the churches.

Needs are made known at each meeting by Mike Mooney and members of OMI committees and projects; the task of the Ecumenical congregation is then to respond by letter-writing, recruiting for fund-raising activities, attending public hearings, or in any other way asked for.

The February meeting of the group was held at Ingleside Presbyterian Church. Bill Dunn, chairman of OMI's Mental Health Committee, reported that the OMI area had finally received approval to be included in the District V Public Health area with the Sunset and Richmond communities. He also said that a Child Psychiatric Clinic was coming, providing the OMI with its first community Mental Health service. The area's mentally retarded will soon have a program at the Brooks Property, he added.

Sister Elizabeth of St. Michael's Catholic Church made known the need for volunteers to help deliver food from the Food Supplement Program to families with a yearly income under \$3000 and with children under five years, and pregnant mothers. 334-4096 or 584-8595 is the number to call for those who can help, she said.

As part of the evening's planned program, Lonnie Lawson, the new President of OMI, was introduced to the Council and spoke on the present and near future of the community. He asked for ideas for new projects, and spoke of the need for follow through with plans for the soon to be rebuilt Ocean View Gym. The other main speaker on the agenda was Joan Martin, who said that free counseling services could be made available in the OMI area if space can be found — something the churches in the community might well be able to provide. She also asked for suggestions for the type of counseling needed — call 346-1397.

Dialogue

With Assemblyman Leo McCarthy

Governor Reagan likes to identify his annual budget by the type of fiscal action it embodies such as "bare bones," "austerity" and of course "cut, squeeze and trim."

The 1971-72 proposal for \$6.7 billion should then best be called the "new math" version. It is balanced, as the law requires, but no one, Republican, Democrat or Independent can tell us how.

Facing a projected deficit of slightly over \$700 million this year because of administrative mismanagement and a faltering economy, the Governor has selected a unique method for meeting the problem.

His budget cuts enough to balance revenues and expenditures — on paper that is — but he has yet to tell us how this will be done.

For instance, the Governor tells us he will cut Welfare \$606 million this year. He promises this will be done without hurting benefits for those truly in need.

That cut represents 25 per cent of the current Welfare budget for California. Despite problems and abuses outlined by the Governor repeatedly, the fact is that 83 per cent of our Welfare dollars go to support the aged, the blind, disabled and children.

It may be the Governor can find some means of reducing costs by that much without affecting these recipients. But he has yet to give us a clue.

The budget message simply tells us that he will "outline later" his precise proposals for such reductions. Therefore I must wait for his program to tell you my real reaction to this year's budget.

The same is true of major cuts in Medi-Cal. It may be the Governor has found areas of little or no need. If so, I and most Democrats will be happy to support him in his budgetary efforts.

However, once again he promises to tell us later of the specific methods for cutting this critical program. Until this is done, no one can justly support or oppose his "balancing methods."

This is not the case in public education, however. He has proposed the first dollar cut in the history of the State's share of education costs for local schools.

This, despite the State's neglect in meeting rising education costs. Local property owners now foot the bill for 65 per cent of the cost of schools. The State has pledged to meet at least half these costs.

Legislative Analyst, A. Alan Post, in his preliminary study of the budget, has reported that, if approved as proposed, this spending program would have to be called "the Governor's property tax increase of 1971."

I am not prepared to support any budget which saves the State money by passing on costs to the local homeowner. To do so is fiscal irresponsibility at its worst.

I hope the Governor will offer us supplementary recommendations to meet the need of producing jobs for our 650,000 unemployed, for preserving our environment and for placing the responsibility for State programs where it belongs — in the State budget.

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OMI Library News

"Kalulu and the Leopard," and African folk tale taken from Geraldine Elliot's book "Where the Leopard Passes," will be presented as a free puppet show for school children at the Ingleside Library on March 8 at 3:30 p.m. and at the Ocean View Library on March 18 at 4:00 p.m.

The show is produced by the San Francisco Children's Librarians Committee in celebration of Afro-American Week and will tour all the San Francisco branch libraries.

Mrs. Elizabeth Wright, librarian at Ingleside Branch, will hold her first Story Hour for school children March 15 at 3:30 p.m. She will tell the story of "The Hat Shaking Dance" from Harold Courlander's collection of Ashanti Tales from Ghana.

The pre-school Story Hour at Ingleside Branch is now held on Mondays at 10:00 a.m. Ocean View Branch holds its Story Hour for 3 to 5 year olds on Wednesdays at 10:00 a.m.

Book Notes

By Richard M. Rafael

Speer, Albert: Inside the Third Reich.

Certainly no book to date which concerns itself with the Hitler period is more important than this one. Albert Speer, confidante of the Fuehrer, his state architect, and later his Minister of Armament, was in a rare position to observe the workings of the demented government to which he admits he sold his soul.

Historians and others will find all sorts of morals in Speer's memoir and confession. But there can be no doubt that the sovereign moral of them all is that trust in a dictatorship is supreme folly and a path to destruction. The apparent dynamism and decisiveness of the Third Reich, as Speer shows, was a false appearance. A ruthless censorship covered monumental stupidity, Sybaritism and factionalism and all this helped to overthrow an empire which had won stunning victories.

"Inside the Third Reich," a best seller in both Europe and America, is one of the few in this class that deserves to be there.

By The Way

The Ocean View Recreation Center again hosted the 21st annual Chili Bowl touch-football game between the Double Rock and Fillmore teams.

Fillmore lost 7 to 6 and had to buy the chili.

Referees were San Francisco City College faculty members G. Klemmer (also NFL official referee), W. Hector and L. Larson.

Among many dedicated CEPP-OMI tutors are Charles Taliaferro (brother to Channel 4's producer, Ray) and Bud Lempke (Bay Area reporter for the Los Angeles Times). Our thanks to Dean Kirk of San Francisco City College for sending CEPP-OMI such excellent tutors.

When does Mrs. Thessalon Jackson of St. Charles Avenue ever rest? In addition to teaching first grade at Sheridan, she attends Mrs. Levy's (of Howth Street) Balboa Adult School Dressmaking class and has been producer of the Martin Luther King, Black History and Malcolm X programs at Sheridan School and Pilgrim Community Church.

Two former pastors of OMI, Rev. Ezekial Habersham (Wright's Chapel) and Rev. Elmore Giles (Pilgrim Community) are teaching at San Francisco City College.

Bouquets to Jan Cristofani, Farragut's reading specialist, for "unready-first-grade" curriculum presentation at the State Reading Specialist Conference in Sacramento.

Mary Cook, OMI's school psychologist, is doing a great job, for she brings to her job a great friendliness and understanding.

Laura Cochran is on the Mayor's Senior Citizen Council until December 1971 and a member of the subcommittee Task Forces of Education and Master Plan for San Francisco city and county; she is also a delegate to the California Legislature Council for Older Americans that goes to Sacramento for face-to-face confrontations.

One can see by the busy nighttime activity at the Ocean View Recreation Center's tennis courts that the community is very appreciative of the flood lighting system, a gift from the San Francisco Electrical Industry Trust and Pacific Gas and Electric.

Let's Meet Walter Morris

by Marie Badaracco

Do our schools need to make changes in their structure and approaches to meet the educational needs of children today? Walter Morris, Principal of Jose Ortega Elementary School, seems to think so, and has effected some of those changes in the three years since his arrival at the Merced Heights facility. A soft-spoken, yet dynamic man, Mr. Morris has given leadership to innovative approaches for individualized instruction, faculty curriculum planning sessions, and special compensatory programs in an effort to deal with the needs of the 512 children at the school.

The commitment to the tasks involved has prompted his request for a leave of absence this Spring. A special nine-unit course at the University of San Francisco, designed to retrain administrators to cope with changes required by today's educational problems, will highlight his sabbatical study. Field work at Ortega will require frequent visits just the same. In his temporary absence, Mrs. Pat Crocker will serve as Principal.

Among the changes that Mr. Morris and his staff of 26 teachers have pioneered is an experimental Learning Disability Opportunity Class. It is designed for the child with problems of a temporary, and uncomplicated nature that may be easily specified and treated by attending whatever number of sessions are required to work out the difficulty, then returning to the regular class. "It is a restorative treatment without the stigma of being separated indefinitely from his classmates," explains the energetic administrator. Some forty children have been benefitting from this class.

A special compensatory program has been set up at the first grade to work on the deficiencies of children indicated in the Inventory of Developmental Tasks administered to pre-school and kindergarten children by OMI-CEPP. Its intent is to deal with those learning readiness skills inadequately developed before entrance into school.

The needs of the educationally handicapped are being addressed by the assignment of specially-trained teachers to



Walter Morris

assist the regular teacher to develop techniques that are effective in helping these youngsters within the classroom.

A Career Orientation Program, set up with funds from the Vocational Training Act, give youngsters exposure to many kinds of work opportunities through field trips to industries, hospitals, businesses, laboratories and the like. The children observe what the job entails, and what skills or training is necessary.

A water-safety program for a first-grade class is scheduled for this semester. Weekly trips to Larsen Pool will be incorporated with classroom activities such as reading, writing, and story-telling.

Sixth grade pupils and teachers will join their counterparts at Frederic Burk School for a joint camp experience. Besides the physical and social advantages, astronomy and nature study will be areas for development.

A change in the personnel-pupil assignment period is expected to benefit all involved. Classes will remain with the same teacher for two consecutive years. It is considered an advantage for the

children to experience the continuity of person and program over an extended time in contrast to the disruption of learning that takes place each time the child and a new teacher are required to get to know one another. Adjustments for possible personality conflicts will be made within the new procedure.

One of the most significant changes taking place at the school will be weekly curriculum planning session for the staff. At the request of the teachers, the encouragement of the principal, and the consent of parents, dismissal will take place at 2 p.m. once a week. The faculty will devote the next two hours to intensive consideration and plans for curriculum development. It is felt that such intra-staff sessions are necessary if there is to be an opportunity to explore the feasibility of newer approaches, to set goals by the teachers themselves, and to provide for a continuing evaluation of the program. This time needs to be made available if effective change is to take place within the school community.

One's admiration for the kind of leadership demonstrated by the able administrator is gently brushed aside in favor of kudos for his competent and cooperative faculty, and unreserved recognition of the support given by CEPP, the educational arm of this community organization (OMI).

Programs, leadership and commitment seem to be the hallmark of successful enterprises. Efforts at Jose Ortega indicate the presence of the essential ingredients. With continuing community support, the school should realize some dramatic changes in attitude and achievement — a hopeful sign for all our schools.

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New Schools Emphasize "Freedom" and "Choice"

Two privately - operated schools have moved into the OMI area. Both are housed in the basement of St. Francis Episcopal Church on Ocean and San Fernando, but they are in no way related to one another — or to the Church, which merely leases the space.

One is the Primary Life School, a parent-cooperative for children ages five to eight. The director of the school is Jane Goldman, who holds an MA in education. She has one regular assistant plus three mothers to help her each day. (Each mother must contribute one day every other week.) Hours are 9:00-2:30, and each child brings his own lunch; tuition is \$25 a month. At present there are 29 children enrolled in the school.

Miss Goldman said she began her school at the suggestion of parents who wanted a less structured atmosphere for their children than that offered by the public schools. Believing that children learn best when they are interested, Miss Goldman feels that no child should be made to do anything he doesn't want to do. Therefore, in the morning each child selects from the suggested activities for the day.

Although the Primary Life School began as a "free" school, Miss Goldman now terms it "semi-structured" and feels it will probably become even more organized. "Freedom," says Miss Goldman, "is a complicated thing."

The other school, for children ages 8-12, is known as the Minuscul. The philosophy of the school, according to one of the five teachers, Alice

Green, is that "kids should be responsible for their own education," and "a teacher should say only, "What do you want to do?" Therefore, activities are suggested daily, but the children do not have to participate. Miss Green stated that they have put their faith in freedom and a feeling of mutual trust, and although at first the teachers were concerned about the aimlessness, they purposely chose not to direct, even though they were so inclined. Miss Green feels that this sort of school demands a greater personal commitment from both teachers and children.

There is no expectation that a child should meet any set standards in the traditional school subjects. One morning when this reporter observed, a number of boys were wrestling, two were playing dominoes, others were drawing, one boy was off in a corner reading a book, and others were lingering at the front entrance. Another morning the teachers and children were assembled in a circle, for the purpose of deciding the fate of two boys whom the other children had already suspended for lighting matches and general bad behavior. Here the approach of the teachers was "What do you think?", "How would you feel?" Each person was encouraged to say whatever was on his mind in whatever manner — including a liberal use of four-letter words. After much discussion, the consensus seemed to be that the boys and their parents should appear at a "trial."

The Minuscul is in session from 9:00-3:00; tuition is whatever a family can afford.

Training Course For "Jr. Great Books" Program

The training course for leaders of the Junior Great Books program will begin the latter part of March. The course is open to all adults who read intelligently, have a sense of humor, like people and ideas, and who believe that young people are capable of thinking for themselves.

Junior Great Books, a program of group discussion of great books, is being offered at the Commodore Sloat School for grades three through six. Each group of fifteen students is led by two adult co-leaders and meets once or twice a month to discuss some of the books which have helped to shape civilization.

Volunteer leaders do not teach, but instead ask questions that encourage participants to analyze and criticize major issues found in great books.

To register for the course call Barbara Kilk, 334-7532.

Oceanview Playground

Mrs. Lucille Bennett, Director at Ocean View Playground, is very gratified by the community support shown on January 14 at the San Francisco Park and Recreation Commission meeting when a recommendation was made to the Board of Supervisors to reallocate money for the renovation of the gym.

The teen-age program is planning a Talent Show to raise money for games for the playground. New officers are Glen Jennings, President; Linda Jennings, Secretary; and Monica Horton, Treasurer.

Trampoline is being taught on Wednesdays at 3:30 p.m. Ruth Banks, dancer for the "Shades of Black", will teach a six week class in Modern and Primitive Dance beginning March 5.

Students Launch Recycling Center at OMI School

Remember when you were a kid and played kick the can?

Today's kids collect them, and it's not a game anymore either. It's a thoroughly adult concern with ecology and it takes the form of a recycling campaign to collect cans and bottles.

A half dozen small but concerned students from Commodore Sloat School decided the world needed something done about it and are doing it.

Suitably backed by sympathetic adults, Mike Read, Barry Perkins, George Hartwick, Spencer Day, Matthew Tarnopol, and Bettina Smilo formed an ecology club.

"If we're going to have a better world to live in," says President of the club Mike Read, "we have to start making it ourselves."

Aluminum, tin and bi-metal cans are the only ones that can be recycled. The cans, jars, and non-returnable bottles the kids are seeking must be washed carefully (dirty ones attract rodents), and the labels have to be removed (labels cannot be processed).

School News

On March 18, the Balboa PTA will have a tour and student demonstration of the science, chemistry, electronics, graphic arts and television production labs. The group will meet in the Little Theater at 7:30 p.m.

The Farragut PTA has invited a person from KQED-TV to give a workshop on "Sesame Street" at its 7:30 p.m. meeting on March 9.

A director from the Creative Environment Center will speak at the Commodore Sloat Mothers' Club March 29 at 12:30 p.m.

St. Michael's Mother's Club is planning a "Sew and Show" program on April 17.

Topic for the Aptos Jr. High PTA March 17 meeting is "Social Problems Teen-agers Face." Dr. John Newmeyer, from the Homosexual Action Forum, will speak in addition to a representative from Planned Parenthood. The meeting is at 7:30 p.m. in the cafeteria.

On March 16, Dr. Eugene McCreary, Teaching Supervisor at UC Berkeley, will explore the role of classroom volunteers. The discussion will be held in the Aptos Jr. High School library at 1:00 p.m.

A closed-circuit television lecture and discussion series for parents is being held at St. Emydius School each Tuesday at 8:15 p.m. through April 6. The theme of the sessions is "Youth and Values — What Happened?"

Balboa Adult Night School offers courses in Basic English and Arithmetic; Book-keeping and Accounting; Civil Service Preparation; Dress-making; English for the Foreign Born; Office Machines; Refresher English; Shorthand; Spanish; New Math for Parents; Typing (beginning and advanced); and U.S. History and Civics. Enrollment is possible any Monday or Wednesday from 7:00 to 9:00 p.m. at the school.

The tin cans should have both tops and bottoms removed and then the entire package should be crushed (more of them can be stored that way). Also welcome are aluminum food trays, such as the kind T.V. dinners come in, old storm windows and screens, pots and pans, bottle caps and foil. Those who share their concern with ecology, can bring cans and bottles to their recycling center the first Saturday of every month at the Commodore Sloat School, corner of San Fernando Way and Ocean ave. between 10:00 a.m. and 3:00 p.m.

New OMI Ed. Committee

The OMI Education Committee was declared defunct at the February 11 OMI Town Meeting.

Ten OMI residents who attended this meeting volunteered to serve as the nucleus of a new Education Committee. They included Rev. Roe Johnston, representing the OMI Ecumenical Parish, Libby Denebeim, representing Aptos and Commodore Sloat schools, Joel Mitchell, representing Jose Ortega, Raymond Thomas and William Savage, representing S.F. State College, Frank Driscoll, representing Farragut, Vera Lewis, Mrs. Samiere, and Jean McCoy, representing St. Michael's, and Mrs. Clarence Bryant, representing St. Emydius.

From this group, Joel Mitchell was elected Chairman, Rev. Roe Johnston, Vice Chairman, and Libby Denebeim, Recording Secretary.

The Committee's first order of business is to organize community support for the continuation of the OMI-CEPP project. The Committee plans to schedule regular meetings in the future. Any suggestions, concerns, or questions may be directed to Mrs. Denebeim

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From left to right, William Tresnan, principal, Balboa Adult School, Marga Deminne, Mr. and Mrs. Ceasar B. Henry, and James Thomas, teacher.

Balboa Adult School

(Continued from Page 1)
German high school in France "you went unless you were almost dead."

All three graduates are continuing to attend school. Mrs. Deminne is taking two classes at John Adams, and the Henrys are taking classes at their respective job sights. The Henrys plan to enter San Francisco City College this June.

The OMI Association's Adult Education Committee requested that Balboa Adult Night School be brought back to the community after a fifteen year absence. The committee hopes that the community will continue to use the Monday and Wednesday services, 7 to 9 p.m., to brush up on office skills, obtain a high school diploma, or pursue individual interests.

The newspaper drive is over. The OMI will not accept any more papers due to the lack of a volunteer truck to haul away the load.

If you can help between the hours of 8 a.m. and 3 p.m., please call 333-5615.

For further information call 776-4639 (days) or 333-2777 (Monday or Wednesday nights after 6:30 p.m.).

Sheridan

(Continued from Page 1)
bands not only be retained, but as principal. His qualifications are known to you and his rapport with the students and the parents. His contribution to the progress of Sheridan has not gone unnoticed by the community. 'Consideration will be given to the wishes of parent groups' is one of your statements. We want the opportunity to express those wishes to you."

At a special meeting with the OMI Community Education Planning Project on January 29, Dr. Shaheen said he would not back down on any of the administrative changes since the transfers were necessary under the present tenure ruling for San Francisco school administrators. He indicated, however, that he will work towards changing this ruling in the future.

OMI Day Care Center Leo McCarthy Aids OMI

(Continued from Page 1)
ence to one from the vicinity of Jose Ortega School, where all school-age children of the center must attend. She also confirmed that experience in other centers indicates there may be a few openings in the summer. Applications can be made at any time by telephone (586-4442) or in person at the center, 1019 Shields Street. Although there are approximately 50 unfilled applications in hand, it can be assumed that other arrangements have been made for some of those children.

Fees for the center, reduced for most children by the new law, which shifts from a basis of gross family income to net income, range on a sliding scale from a possible one cent per hour for a single parent seeking work to a maximum of \$.84 per hour for the highest eligible income.

Open from 7:00 a.m. to 6:00 p.m. five days a week, the center provides a balanced hot lunch and two snacks each day for pre-school enrollees and an after-school snack for pupils who lunch in the public school cafeteria. The pre-school children nap in the early afternoon in three of the large rooms rented from the church, which provides in all six rooms, a kitchen and the large play yard. In addition to activities already mentioned, the program includes music, crafts and such special adventures as cooking.

The staff consists of Miss Hause, director, nine full-time teachers with California credentials, three half-time teachers who are working toward credentials, and two aides.

The composition of the center by race and national origin in December was 60 black children, 3 with Spanish surnames, 41 other white, 2 Filipino, 1 Korean and 1 American Indian.

One local resident, Mrs. Linda Johnson, treasurer of the OMI Association, said of her child's experience, "I was surprised and pleased with the varied educational values in the program. I feel my daughter is benefitting greatly from her contacts with both the children and the teachers."

A disappointed mother who made application in December, Mrs. Joe Mitchell of Sargent Street, said, "People in OMI should know the center is available and that the rates have been decreased, so they can go and register their children."

Assemblyman Leo T. McCarthy's offices provided the labor and paper necessary to help the OMI Association get flyers out announcing the February 18 meeting of the San Francisco Board of Education. This meeting had future funding for the CEPP on its agenda.

Similar assistance was provided again to help OMI publicize the Permit Appeals Board hearing regarding the public housing on Randolph Street.

The OMI Association has expressed its appreciation for this help.

CEPP Future

(Continued from Page 1)
and a trend toward a distribution of ethnic groups more in proportion to the City at large.

Mr. Carlos Ruling, the Project Director, likewise indicated that reading scores for individual 4-6th graders rose significantly higher in the 1970 testing than they did three years ago. Although the CEPP would be responsible only indirectly.

"The visible data suggests some gains. The changes in attitude and school climate cannot be measured so easily," so stated Dr. Louis Falik, S.F. State Consultant to the Project. His open-ended questions as to meaning, expectation, and direction of CEPP, set the themes for the small-group discussions.

The summaries from these sessions include:

— CEPP has made a positive difference in the community schools;

— more teacher aides are needed in the classroom;

— CEPP needs to project its image so people will know what they are getting but wouldn't be, if not for the coordination and intensive ef-

forts of reading specialists, aides, librarians, teacher workshops and materials, all coming through CEPP;

— some kind of facility like CEPP must be continued in the community.

An appeal for continuation of CEPP funds became official February 18, at a formal presentation before the Board of Education. Speakers were President Lonnie Lawson, Leo McCarthy, Michael Mooney, Vice President Herbert Yarbrough, tutor Charles Tagliaferro, teacher Glenda Oliver, Commodore Sloat Principal Rose Marraccina, St. Michael's Principal Sister Mary Enda, and CEPP Director Carlos Ruling, who later said he was optimistic and encouraged by the enthusiastic turnout (over 50 OMI people).

The CEPP, the group said, has provided a community rallying point, and has just begun to make a real impact on the schools and thus OMI.

A meeting on March 30 is scheduled for an up-date on the situation of the Project as a result of the presentation before the Board of Education on February 18.



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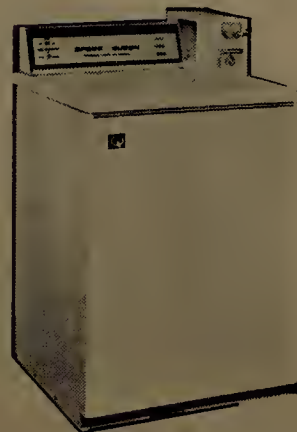
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